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26 November 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Mr. Conrad Wirth, Director of the National Park Service.

1. On 17 November 1955 I conferred with Mr. Conrad Wirth, Director of the National Park Service, in his office. I told him that I wanted him to know that we did not consider the Winkler property as a possible location for our proposed new building anymore, and that if for any reason we had to abandon consideration of the Langley site I thought we would almost have to start over on a site selection problem. I said that I did not know how strongly he felt about getting the Extension to the George Washington Memorial Parkway which, of course, he would get if we located at Langley and probably would not get for many years if we did not. He responded by saying that he would tell me exactly where he stood and that he had already told [REDACTED]. He then related how he had come to Washington in 1928 as a member of the Planning Staff and that he had actually surveyed and staked out the route for the proposed Extension to the Parkway. He stated that of course he would like to see the Parkway installed and felt that it was badly needed; however, he knew that if he voted for Langley some would allege that he had done so merely to get the Parkway. Therefore, he felt that he must lean over backwards to insure that his vote was that which his conscience dictated, regardless of the Parkway. After carefully considering the matter, he said that at this point he was rather firmly of the opinion that Langley was the proper site for our location.

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2. We discussed the matter briefly, but I left with a firm understanding that he would support this position at the next meeting of the National Capital Planning Commission.

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[REDACTED]

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Deputy Director
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Auth: HR 70-3
Date: 03 JAN 1979 By: 24